

Recommendations and Problems
Monthly Reports for February 1958

CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION

Over-all production of the Division was materially affected by bad weather and by a decrease in capabilities due to illnesses and other absences of personnel. Since this situation will extend into March, it is anticipated that considerable overtime will have to be used in order to attempt to meet committed deadlines.

USSR-Satellites Compilation Branch

An indirect result of the monthly scheduling of rerun requests for D/GL is the raising of questions on our revision policy on all kinds of base maps, including any map which is used as a base map, regardless of its original purpose. This regular scheduling has highlighted the large volume of such maps distributed throughout the intelligence community and our responsibility for keeping this kind of indispensable map up to date. Continuing to reprint seriously out-of-date base maps amounts to a real disservice to the intelligence community. Such maps should either be revised or not reprinted.

Far East Compilation Branch

The over-riding problem is one of getting the work out. It is felt that the problem lies to a considerable degree in the nature of many of the jobs that we have had in the shop during the past year or so and the under-strength nature of the Branch. In addition, we have had a new person here for the past several months who - while making progress in a satisfactory manner - has not reached the full production stage as regards the more difficult type of map which it has been necessary to assign. There has been a problem of volume of work coming into the Division and the consequent necessity of assigning some of it to the Aid section, a necessity that is unfortunate in many cases as some of the requests really should be done by a regular compiler possessing area competence. In addition, the Branch Chief has had to spend a good deal of time in compilation himself to the disadvantage of the Branch. Such compilation has been necessary to keep from getting too far behind. During 1957, 12 jobs were accepted that the Branch Chief compiled; in 1956, 17 such jobs were accepted, several of which were of the lower category of complexity. The current year has brought six such jobs so far. It is hoped that a return to a normal complement and the increased experience of the personnel will serve to overcome this situation.

Europe-Africa Compilation Branch

Chief, GC/E, regrets that no opportunity was afforded GC/E to brief [REDACTED] prior to his departure.

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CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION

DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION BRANCH

A problem of the selection of source material in compiling the Sinkiang base has indefinitely delayed the terrain plates for that job. Work will continue when this problem is reconciled in Compilation and a corrected manuscript is prepared.

25X1A9a It is anticipated that a problem may develop in the Drafting Section during the coming month due to planned leave arrangements. 25X1A9a
[REDACTED] begins a month of jury duty early in March, [REDACTED] has been forced to take leave to care for a sick child, and one other in the Section has indicated he may have to take leave during the month. 25X1A9a
25X1A9a It was hoped that [REDACTED] could assist but he will be working with GC/X in the absence of [REDACTED]. To further provoke the situation, 25X1A9a
25X1A9a [REDACTED] will be hospitalized for the last three weeks of March which will bring Lab activities virtually to a standstill.

SPECIAL SUPPORT BRANCH

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Our work load has increased by about 80% over the norm of the last six months. If things continue, we are going to need additional help, especially since [REDACTED] will be in the hospital for at least 3 weeks and possibly much longer.

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GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

A unit in DD/P consulted the Near East-Africa Branch about availability of certain maps of Turkey held by AMS. In the face of difficulties encountered in attempts to get these maps through ACSI and AMS, DD/P has requested the field to procure copies and send them back to Washington through D/GL. The arrangements made to receive the maps make their use by working level personnel highly impractical.

Applications were filed by several members of the GG/F Branch for the DD/I vacant positions in the Far East. In connection therewith, the Branch Chief calls attention to the necessity for either 1. more expeditious handling of the vacancy notices, or 2. more lenient deadlines for submitting applications.

EDITING AND REVIEW STAFF

Although 6 reports that were in Reproduction at the end of January have been issued, 4 others have not yet been published. Although the record is far better than in the past, we are initiating a policy of making periodic requests for information concerning the status of all reports in Reproduction. The Reproduction Staff has been very cooperative in this procedure, which we regard as an automatic check rather than the application of pressure.

GEOGRAPHY DIVISION (CONT'D)

EDITING AND REVIEW STAFF (CONT'D)

Both GG/R and Reproduction are working on the problem of inadequate printing of photographs in geographic reports. The first proof of GR-163 was returned without approval because of the poor quality of the illustrations. The second proof, which was submitted in a remarkably short time, was far superior to the original. The real test of the results of GG/R-Reproduction cooperation will be GR-171, For E and E reports, it is particularly important that details of the photographs show clearly and that none of the features mentioned in the text or captions be lost in printing.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA BRANCH

Production during the month was reduced by sickness, the snow, and a flurry of requests for information on Africa. IRA/GE, MIB and ESID at AMS, QMIA, and OCI and CSS within CIA have all placed at least one request for information on Africa. While it is recognized that the Branch has limited capabilities on Africa, it is evident that other Agencies and Offices have even more restricted resources. In view of the increased interest in Africa and the lack of information available, it is estimated that requests for information on Africa will continue at a high rate. Such a situation poses problems for the Branch in terms of the production schedule, but due to the coming importance of Africa it would appear unwise to restrict the dissemination of information that is available in the Branch.

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Prior to his departure, [REDACTED] discussed Branch requirements with the ORR Reading Panel. The result has been a flood of documents. Most of this deluge is considered valuable and it is regrettable that the Branch has been included on routing at this late date -- in spite of the addition to housekeeping problems.

During the month, it came to the attention of the Branch that certain OO-A information was being taken from trade journals and being given to OO field men as company information. When this was called to the attention of OO, a favorable response was received. OO appreciates this kind of report from analysts. It is recommended that analysts with information of this kind contact OO with particulars.

EUROPE BRANCH

D/GC has a problem which affects us also. The Construction Branch turns things out in a hurry of necessity, with the result that finished products are not coordinated with and sometimes do not agree with the finished product of the area Compilations Branches. A recent case in point: two maps for the Austria E and E show different outlines for the city of Vienna. Perhaps D/GC could institute a check of Construction Branch product by the responsible compiler in the area Branch.

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GEOGRAPHY DIVISION (CONT'D)

COORDINATION STAFF

The chief problem continues to be one of staffing. Only with excessive overtime and because some of the Chapters IX on the FY 58 schedule are small, has it been possible to complete the 4 Chapters IX, 5 Sections 19, and 1 Annual forwarded to date.

The Annual program is still in the planning stages, but will undoubtedly be adopted in some form. How the acceptance of this program will affect the other NIS commitments has not been established. The Chief of the Coordination Staff prepared a memo giving the amount of time and research spent in the preparation of the "trial run" for Poland, which was used as a basis for evaluating the impact of an Annual program on D/GG planning. In any case, the production of the Annuals presents a problem to an already overtaxed Coordination Staff.

STAFF - [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

The typing of PN 60.1595 on the new form has been completed after a fashion, but much of it will have to be retyped ere it is ready for publication. The result: (a) a new waste of much typing time, and (b) a product that will not be completely satisfactory, because many of the ways of presenting data that worked on the old form led to odd and inappropriate effects when the information is switched to a new layout. Recommendation: If the "over-riding consideration" is indeed time, attempt no form switch on the Africa and Europe sections.

FAR EAST BRANCH

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The responsible analyst for Project [REDACTED] discovered, when ordering WAC's for the project, that D/GL's stock of at least one of the required sheets was only three copies and that additional copies could be obtained only through a time-consuming order to St. Louis. In view of the wide use of WAC's and the delay necessitated by reordering from St. Louis, it was recommended to D/GL that a minimum stock of 25 copies be maintained, and that when stocks approach that minimum a reorder be placed.

It is understood that the Agency has available two small recording machines which may be useful to Geographers on future familiarization trips. The Pierce machine, which weighs 7 lbs, uses a belt; the Dichotet, which weighs six pounds, uses a tape. A shoulder strap arrangement allows the user to carry them into the field, and in the case of at least one of them, the user can inconspicuously carry the small microphone in his hand without removing the machine from the shoulder strap arrangement.

It is recognized that such machines would have disadvantages in some countries. However, since neither machine is exhibited at the Support Fair, it seems appropriate to call them to the attention of future travellers.

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MAP LIBRARY DIVISION

PROCESSING BRANCH

For the sixth consecutive month, Cataloging and Indexing Section personnel have absorbed clerical and typing duties related to cataloging. You may have noted that the typist in this report is not that of a skilled typist.

The Printing Services Division has returned no map catalog cards since the middle of December. At the present time, they are holding over 2,192 master catalog cards and reproductions thereof. This backlog greatly hampers Map Library operations.

PHOTO INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

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[REDACTED] completed an internal training course on the Economic Geography of the Soviet Union. This course as presently conducted is not recommended for future participation by Division personnel. Much of the material was considered irrelevant, obsolete and inaccurate and teaching methods were consistently poor.*

Other GRA people
who attended:

D/GC -

D/GL -

D/GG -

(audited)

(audited)

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INFO CONTROL SECTION

The over-all flow of documents for the month is about the same as for January, except that we are being required to share a greater number of documents with other components of the Agency. This is causing some gnashing of teeth by the analyst who very often recognizes the substance of the document as being basically his responsibility. These shared copies are more time consuming to handle for the analyst and in this office than is the retention copy items.

* This seemed to be a rather general feeling on the part of those who attended the course, per
SE/A ([REDACTED])

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